

BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
DOCKET NO. 2006-352-S - ORDER NO. 2007-20  
JANUARY 12, 2007

IN RE: Application of Quail Hollow Utilities, Inc. for ) ORDER APPOINTING  
Approval of the Transfer of Its Sewer System ) HEARING OFFICER  
to the City of West Columbia. )

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (Commission) on the Commission's Motion to appoint Joseph M. Melchers, Esquire, Chief Counsel, to serve as a hearing officer in the present proceeding regarding the application of Quail Hollow Utilities, Inc., filed November 9, 2006, for approval to transfer its sewer system to the City of West Columbia. This appointment is in order that the hearing officer may dispose of procedural and evidentiary matters pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-3-40 (Supp. 2006).

Section 58-3-40(C)(1) states that upon the request of any party or any commissioner, the commission may employ a hearing officer who may hear and determine procedural motions or other matters not determinative of the merits of the proceedings. Under (C)(2), the hearing officer has full authority, subject to being overruled by the commission, to rule on questions concerning the conduct of the case and other matters. Under (C)(3), the officer must be an attorney qualified to practice in all courts of this State with a minimum of eight years' practice experience.

We find that Joseph M. Melchers meets these qualifications, and we therefore grant the Motion appointing him as hearing officer in this case. As hearing officer in this proceeding, we direct Mr. Melchers to rule on appropriate matters in the case.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. Joseph M. Melchers is hereby appointed as hearing officer in the pending proceeding filed by Quail Hollow Utilities, Inc. for disposition of procedural and evidentiary matters.

2. This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

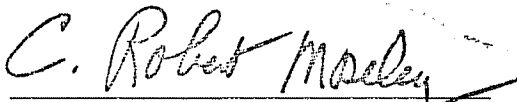
BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:



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G. O'Neal Hamilton, Chairman

ATTEST:



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C. Robert Moseley, Vice Chairman

(SEAL)